Route Permits to Private Bus Operators in Delhi

367. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give more route permits to private bus operators in Delhi in view of the acute shortage of D.T.C. buses;

(b) *if so,* the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these permits would be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). To augment the public transport in Delhi, the State Transport Authority, Delhi has formulated a scheme for grant of 3000 Stage Carriage Permits to the Private Operators on certain city routes in Delhi on fare rates higher than that of D.T.C. The scheme is still under consideration of Delhi Administration.

[*English*]

Increase in Textile Exports Quota for India

368. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Government is contemplating to increase the textile export quota for India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to meet this challenging opportunity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c). Consultations between delegations of India and U.S.A. are currently being held in Washington for renewal/extension of the current Indo-Us Textile Agreement which is expiring on 31st December, 1991. The outcome is awaited.

Expansion of Footwear Market Abroad

369. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the footwear market abroad has expanded enormously but India's share in the trade remains marginal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The inadequacy of component manufacturing facilities, shortage of trained technical manpower and insufficient, attention the past to product development and marketing, are some of the constraints in our achieving a higher percentage share in the world footwear trade. Government is concious of the growth potential of the footwear sector and is initiating various steps to boost exports of footwear.

Export of Gems and Jewellery

370. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent curbs on imports have had an adverse effect on the export of Gems and jewellery; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being contemplated by the Government to rectify the situation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The import restricting measures taken by RBI since March, 1991 have, inter-*alia*, also had an effect on the diamond industry in arranging remittances for the imports of rough diamonds. However, despite this, according to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, exports of gem Jewellery in the period April to September 1991 have previous year.

(b) some relaxations in margin money requirements have been made for exporters. Diamond exporters have been permitted to open dollar accounts and to mobilise credits abroad to finance import of rough diamonds.

Expenditure on Litigation by BIC Ltd. Kanpur

371. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES to be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure on litigation has increased tremendously in B.I.C. Limited, Kanpur for the past seven months;

(b) if so, the details of expenditure incurred by the company during the above period and also the comparative figures of expenditure on litigation incurred during the same period in the past two years;

(c) whether the Government have directed the company to reduce the cost of expenditure so that the cashflow may not be adversely affected and industrial production reduced as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir. The expenditure this year is substantially lower than corresponding period of last year.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Development of National Highways in Bihar

372. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for the development of National Highways submitted by the Bihar Government to the Union Government during last three years;

(b) the details of proposals approved by the Union Government and the amount sanctioned therefor;

(c) the reasons for not approving the remaining proposals;

(d) whether the construction work of any sanctioned project is being delayed; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Bihar Government had submitted 83 nos. of proposals for Road/Bridge works to the Union Government for the development of National Highways during the last three years viz 1988-89 to 1990-90. Out of these, 78 nos. of proposals amounting to Rs. 5075.312 lakhs were approved by the Union Government.

(c) As regards the balance five proposals, three proposals were sanctioned subse-